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THE BRITISH

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AND

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Editorial Annual Address.

In reviewing the leading events of the past year, the disruption of the once United States of America is the most prominent. Fearful forebodings were entertained by many a year ago, which have since been realized. The South seceded from the North, and their armies are now arrayed against each other in tremendous numbers on the banks of the Potomac. Contests have taken place, and thousands of men and millions of dollars have already been sacrificed. And why? Whence came these wars and fightings in the land to which our forefathers fled for freedom? Slavery has done it all. That accursed thing, that sum of all villanies, that greatest sin that man can commit against his fellow, is now ruining the Great Republic of the West. Well: that work of the devil must be destroyed; the Son of Man must "break in pieces the oppressor," and we now wait with awful expectation the further developments of His interposition, who in "saving the poor and needy" can make the wrath of man to praise Him.

Glancing eastward there is little of importance to record, except the gradual improvement of our Indian Empire. The European despots are uneasy on their thrones; Poland, Hungary, and Venetia, are thorns in their sides. The Pope is yet at Rome, but shorn of his glory, and begging "Peter's Pence" of all nations for his support. The new kingdom of Italy has lost its patriot statesman, Cavour, by death; but the good work of liberty and consolidation progresses. The best of all is, over all these movements of the nations, THE LORD REIGNETH.

At home, we have been favoured with an average harvest; but fears are entertained of scarcity of work and wages in consequence of the interruption of the supply of raw cotton from the Southern States of America because of the war.

Having thus noticed, generally and briefly, the leading events of the year, we now turn to a matter which more immediately affects ourselves and our readers.

REPEAL OF ALL TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE, was, a few years ago, the watch-word of the friends of universal instruction. One by one those taxes were repealed, and, a few weeks ago, the last—the tax on paper was removed.

Now our countrymen have every facility for mental and religious improvement, all free and cheap. Twice "forty years ago" our fathers began the good work by opening sabbath schools. Cheap day schools came next, and thus an appetite for knowledge was excited, and the faculty of acquiring it imparted. The demand created the supply, and hence the multiplication of books, pamphlets, and tracts; whilst magazines, newspapers, and periodicals of all kinds, appearing quarterly, monthly, weekly, and daily, opened ever-fresh sources of intelligence and instruction.

Now we have all these untaxed and unhindered; for the Penny Letter Post, and the Penny Book Post, convey what we write, and transmit what we print, with railway speed to every part of the Empire.

Solomon wrote of the endless making of books, and our fathers twice "forty years ago," as we have noticed elsewhere, mention the "many magazines" then in circulation. But what would they have said had they lived in these days, when we have them on nearly all imaginable subjects?

In our denomination what a number! Every year nearly sees some new claimant of notice or preference. What are we to do? Suppress them? No indeed! We would not if we could. We are glad we cannot. Let them come and live as long as they can.

But we must try to live too, and we hope you will let us. For thirty-five years the *Reporter* has been, we have reasons to believe, a welcome visitor of the baptist churches. Two things, without presumption, may be mentioned in its favour. It contains intelligence not to be found in any other similar publication, and its records of the proceedings of both sections of the baptists are free and impartial.

If our friends will kindly peruse the notice on the cover of the present number, they will see that we propose an enlargement of our columns for 1862.

May we, in conclusion, respectfully solicit the continued patronage of our friends, and their valuable aid in obtaining for us an increased circulation? Death and removals are continually thinning the ranks of our readers, and upon your kind assistance, under Divine favour, we must therefore depend to replenish them.

THE EDITOR.

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